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an oily solution of an active vitamin D₃; and
a soft capsule shell which contains titanium oxide
and yellow iron oxide and/or red iron oxide and encapsulates
said oily solution of an active vitamin D₃.

2. (amended) A soft capsule formulation
comprising:

an oily solution of an active vitamin D₃; and
a soft capsule shell which contains titanium oxide
and caramel and encapsulates said oily solution of active
vitamin D₃.

Add the following new claims:

B2

10. (new) A soft capsule formulation comprising:
an oily solution of an active vitamin D₃; and
a soft capsule shell which contains a white pigment
and yellow iron oxide and/or red iron oxide and encapsulates
said oily solution of an active vitamin D₃,

wherein said white pigment and said iron oxide
within said soft capsule shell constitute a homogeneous
mixture.

11. (new) The soft capsule formulation of claim 10
wherein said soft capsule shell further includes caramel.

12. (new) The capsule formulation of claim 10 or 11 wherein the white pigment is titanium oxide.

13. (new) The soft capsule formulation of claim 10 wherein said oily solution comprises at least one base material selected from the group consisting of fatty acid glycerides, propylene glycol fatty acid diesters, triacetin, polyethylene glycols and vegetable oils.

14. (new) The soft capsule formulation of claim 13 wherein the base for the oily solution comprises a fatty acid glyceride.

15. (new) The soft capsule formulation of claim 10 wherein the active vitamin D₃ is selected from 1 α -hydroxyvitamin D₃, 24-hydroxyvitamin D₃, 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃, 1 α ,24-dihydroxyvitamin D₃, 1 α ,25-dihydroxyvitamin D₃, 1 α ,24,25-trihydroxyvitamin D₃, 22-oxa-1 α ,25-dihydroxyvitamin D₃ and 2 β -(3-hydroxypropyloxy)-1 α ,25-dihydroxyvitamin D₃.

REMARKS

The Official Action of August 23, 2002, and the prior art relied upon therein have been carefully studied. The claims in the application are now claims 1,2 and 4-15, and these claims define patentable subject matter warranting their